(d) if so, what steps will be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. To give effect to the directive principles of the Constitution, the Government enacted the Equal Remuneration Act, 1976 which provides for payment of equal remuneration to men and women workers for the same work or work of similar nature without any discrimination.

In the Central sphere, the enforcement of the Equal Remuneration Act is done by the Chief Labour Commissioner (Central), who heads the Central Industrial Relations Machinery. Respective State Governments are the appropriate authority to enforce the provisions of the Act in their jursdictions.

Central Government is regularly monitoring the implementation of the Act and instructions are issued from time to time for effective enforcement of the Act.

Revision of rate of minimum wages

2052.SHRI PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Ministry had issued Notification on 20th May, 2009 (SO1285E) revising the minimum rates of wages payable to the employees in the Scheduled Employment, mentioned therein;

(b) if so, when was the rate fixed in the previous Notification;

(c) what is date of effect for the new rates as fixed by the above Notification; and

(d) when was the issue referred to Advisory Board and when the recommendation from Advisory Board received?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The previous Notification on fixation of minimum rates of wages was published in the Gazette of India (Extra Ordinary) vide Notification No. S O 1521 (E) dated 14.09.2006.

(c) As mentioned in Para 5 of the Notification S O 1285 (E) dated 20th May, 2009, the minimum rates of wages will be effective from the date of the said Notification *i.e.,* 20th May, 2009.

(d) Based on the recommendations of the Minimum Wages Advisory Board (MWAB) in its meeting held on 26.08.2008, the Ministry of Labour and Employment had issued the Notification S O 1285 (E) dated 20th May, 2009 fixing the minimum rates of wages for workers engaged in various construction activities in Central sphere.